

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrochromic display element ~~containing an electrochromic medium between two electrode surfaces, in which at least one of the electrode surfaces is transparent and has a transparent, electrically conductive layer, characterized in that the at least one transparent electrode surface has a periodic or aperiodic pattern of strips or grid made of metallic conductive material:~~ which comprises:
 - 1) a first electrode comprising:
 - a first substrate, made of transparent material in the form of a sheet having a smooth flat surface;
 - a first electrically conductive layer, located on said flat surface of said first substrate and being continuous and transparent; and
 - a periodic or aperiodic pattern of strips or grid made of metallic conductive material located outside of said first substrate, and above or below said first electrically conductive layer and in continuous electrical contact with the same;
 - 2) a second electrode comprising:
 - a second substrate, made of material which is the same as or different from that of said first substrate, in the form of a sheet having a smooth flat surface;
 - a second electrically conductive layer, located on said flat surface of said second substrate and being continuous and optionally transparent; and
 - optionally, a periodic or aperiodic pattern of strips or grid made of metallic conductive material located outside of said second substrate, and above or below said second electrically conductive layer and in continuous electrical contact with it;

3) an electrochromic medium; and

4) means for maintaining the electrically conductive layers of said first and second electrodes in spaced-apart proximity facing each other, and for holding said electrochromic medium between said first and second electrodes.

2. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the electrochromic medium is a solution, a gel or a solid.
3. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the electrochromic medium contains at least one pair of redox substances of which one is reducible and the other is oxidizable, where both are colourless or only slightly coloured and one substance is reduced and the other is oxidized on application of a voltage to the display element, with at least one becoming coloured, and after switching off the voltage the two original redox substances are formed again and the display element decolorizes.
4. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 3, characterized in that
 - a) the reducible substance has at least two chemically reversible reduction waves in the cyclic voltammogram and the oxidizable substance correspondingly has at least two chemically reversible oxidation waves, or
 - b) the reducible substance and the oxidizable substance are covalently bound via a bridge, or
 - c) the reducible and/or oxidizable substances selected are ones in which the reversible transition between the oxidizable form and the reducible form or vice versa is associated with the breaking or the formation of a σ bond, or

- d) the reducible substance and the oxidizable substance are metal salts or metal complexes of metals which exist in at least two oxidation states, or
 - e) the reducible and/or oxidizable substances are selected from the group consisting of oligomers and polymers which contain at least one of the redox systems mentioned or else pairs of such redox systems as are defined under a) to d), or
 - f) the reducible and/or oxidizable substances used as mixtures of the substances described in a) to e), provided that these mixtures contain at least one reducible and at least one oxidizable redox system.
5. (Currently amended) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that ~~both electrode surfaces have~~ each of said first and second electrodes has a periodic or aperiodic pattern of strips or grids made of metallic conductive material.
6. (Currently amended) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 5, characterized in that each of said first and second electrodes has a periodic pattern of strips or grids and the lines of the pattern of strips or grids of the two electrodes form an angle with one another.
7. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the pattern of strips or grid made of metallic conductive material is aperiodic on at least one electrode.
8. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 7, characterized in that the periodicity of the pattern of strips or grid on at least one electrode is restricted to a very short distance.

9. (Previously presented) display element according to Claim 7, characterized in that the arrangement of the aperiodic grid is such that the mean of the distance between two neighboring points of intersection of the grid, taken over all points of intersection of the grid, corresponds to the dot spacing of a periodic dot grid having the same size and the same number of grid points and in that the autocorrelation function of the grid decreases rapidly in all directions for values which are greater than said dot spacing.
10. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that said pattern of strips or grid on the electrode or electrodes is deposited on the transparent, electrically conductive layer.
11. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the transparent, electrically conductive layer on the electrode is deposited on said pattern of strips or grid.
12. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that said pattern of strips or grid of at least one electrode has a minimum mesh spacing of 3 mm.
13. (Previously presented) The electrochromic display element according to Claim 1, characterized in that said pattern of strips or grid has a maximum optical density of 0.3.